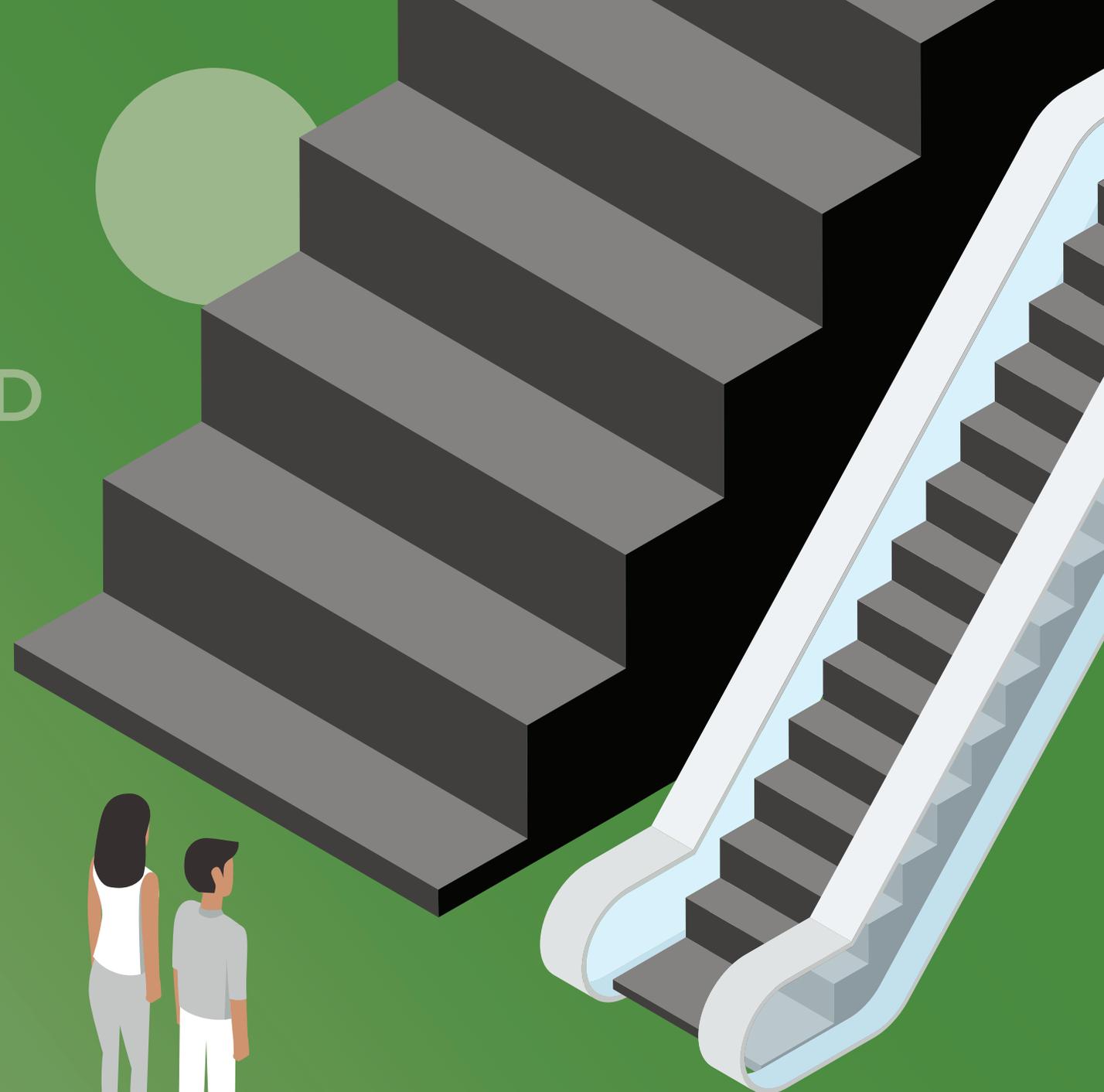


JAMAICA COUNTRY GENDER SCORECARD

December 2021



WORLD BANK GROUP
Poverty & Equity

The Regional Gender Coordination and the LAC Gender Innovation Lab (both in LAC Poverty and Equity) prepared this scorecard. For more information, please contact Eliana Rubiano-Matulevich (erubiano@worldbank.org) and Diana Galeano (dgaleano@worldbank.org).

JAMAICA



- Jamaica has made significant strides towards gender equality in the last two decades.** Gains have been observed in various areas, including declines in fertility and the achievement of gender parity in primary school enrollment and completion. However, persistent challenges remain, and the pandemic could widen gender gaps, potentially reversing decades of gains. For example, adolescent fertility rates remain higher than those for the average Latin American country; boys are less likely than girls to enroll in secondary education (72% vs. 76%, respectively) and children are not learning the basics in school. Test scores are particularly low for boys who tend to drop out of school to engage in paid work. Similarly, 35% of women are enrolled in tertiary compared to 20% of men.
- Men appear to be disadvantaged in specific areas.** They are significantly more likely than women to die from non-communicable diseases, due to the prevalence of major risk factors such as increasing levels of physical inactivity, unhealthy diets, and the use of tobacco. Homicide rates are particularly high among young men, especially when compared with other countries in the Caribbean.
- Despite improvements in educational attainment, Jamaican women do not have the same access to economic opportunities as men.** With only 59% of women in the workforce (compared to 72% of men in 2019), Jamaica still trails some countries in the region in terms of female labor force participation. This is partly due to the disproportionate responsibility they have for unpaid domestic and care work and gender norms that dictate the role of women and men in society. When women do participate, their jobs on average tend to be of lower quality and poorly paid, particularly in rural areas.
- The COVID-19 pandemic has the potential to further exacerbate existing gender gaps and reverse recent gains in economic opportunities for women.** The labor market impact of the crisis at its onset fell disproportionately on women, partly because they had a higher participation in sectors that have been hardest hit by the pandemic, including tourism, accommodation, and personal services. Jamaican women have also experienced a significant increase in the time allocated to unpaid domestic and care work due to school closures and confinement measures. Recent household phone survey data collected in June 2021 show that 61% of women reported increases in the amount of time allocated to childcare during the pandemic, compared to 51% of men. Gender gaps in labor market outcomes have also widened with the pandemic. While 25% of women reported that they were no longer working post COVID-19 outbreak, the figure was 11% among men (World Bank High Frequency Survey 2021, HFS).
- Gender-based violence primarily affecting women remains a concerning phenomenon in the country.** Although there is a scarcity of reliable data on gender-based violence in Jamaica, the existing evidence indicates that one in every four Jamaican women (25.2%) have experienced physical violence from a male partner, while almost half (47.3%) of ever partnered women have been subject to controlling behaviors.

Country Performance¹



Human Endowments	COUNTRY BASELINE	YEAR	PERFORMANCE	YEAR	LAC	YEAR	UMC	YEAR
School enrollment, secondary, female (% net)	77.7	2000	76.3 ●	2018	79.1	2018	83.9	2018
School enrollment, secondary, male (% net)	75.0	2000	71.7 ●	2018	76.0	2018	80.7	2018
Lower secondary completion rate, female (% of relevant age group)	98.2	2000	84.7 ●	2019	82.0	2019	88.2	2019
Lower secondary completion rate, male (% of relevant age group)	97.1	2000	83.4 ●	2019	77.3	2019	86.2	2019
School enrollment, tertiary, female (% gross)	19.5	2000	34.7 ●	2015	59.7	2019	58.2	2019
School enrollment, tertiary, male (% gross)	10.6	2000	19.9 ●	2015	45.9	2019	48.6	2019
Female share of graduates from STEM programmes (%)	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Share of youth not in education, employment or training, females (% of female youth population) ²	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	27.4	2019	n.a.	n.a.
Share of youth not in education, employment or training, males (% of male youth population)	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	14.6	2019	n.a.	n.a.
Maternal mortality ratio (modeled est. per 100,000 births)	77.0	2000	80.0 ●	2017	74.0	2017	41.0	2017
Births attended by skilled health staff (% of total)	95.9	2000	99.7 ●	2016	93.8	2018	98.4	2018
Prevalence of HIV, female (% ages 15-24)	0.4	2000	0.3	2019	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Prevalence of HIV, male (% ages 15-24)	0.5	2000	0.4	2019	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Contraceptive prevalence, any methods (% of women ages 15-49)	69.1	2002	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	78.7	2017
Economic Opportunity	COUNTRY BASELINE	YEAR	PERFORMANCE	YEAR	LAC	YEAR	UMC	YEAR
Labor force participation, female (% of female population 15+) ◇	58.1	2000	60.3 ●	2019	52.5	2019	56.0	2019
Labor force participation, male (% of male population 15+) ◇	76.0	2000	73.2 ●	2019	76.7	2019	74.8	2019
Account at a financial institution, female (% age 15+)	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	52.0	2017	69.3	2017
Account at a financial institution, male (% age 15+)	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	58.6	2017	77.0	2017
Vulnerable employment, female (% of female employment) ◇	33.0	2000	30.6 ●	2019	33.8	2019	38.1	2019
Vulnerable employment, male (% of male employment) ◇	41.3	2000	40.2 ●	2019	33.4	2019	35.6	2019
Voice and Agency	COUNTRY BASELINE	YEAR	PERFORMANCE	YEAR	LAC	YEAR	UMC	YEAR
Women who were first married by age 18 (% of women ages 20-24)	8.6	2005	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Adolescent fertility rate (births per 1,000 women, ages 15-19)	87.9	2000	49.9 ●	2019	61.2	2019	29.5	2019
Proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments (%)	13.3	2000	28.6 ●	2020	32.8	2020	26.5	2020
Firms with female top manager (% of firms)	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	20.1	2020	19.1	2020
Proportion of women subjected to physical and/or sexual violence in the last 12 months (% of women 15-49)	n.a.	n.a.	8.5	2016	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.

Sources: World Bank World Development Indicators, World Bank Gender Statistics, and World Health Organization. Country Baseline provides a reference point for the indicator. Circa 2000

LAC = Includes the 42 countries (all income levels) in Latin America and the Caribbean, as classified by The World Bank Group

UMC = In FY21, upper-middle-income countries are those with a GNI per capita between \$4,046 and \$12,535 (calculated using the World Bank Atlas method)

◇ Modeled ILO estimate

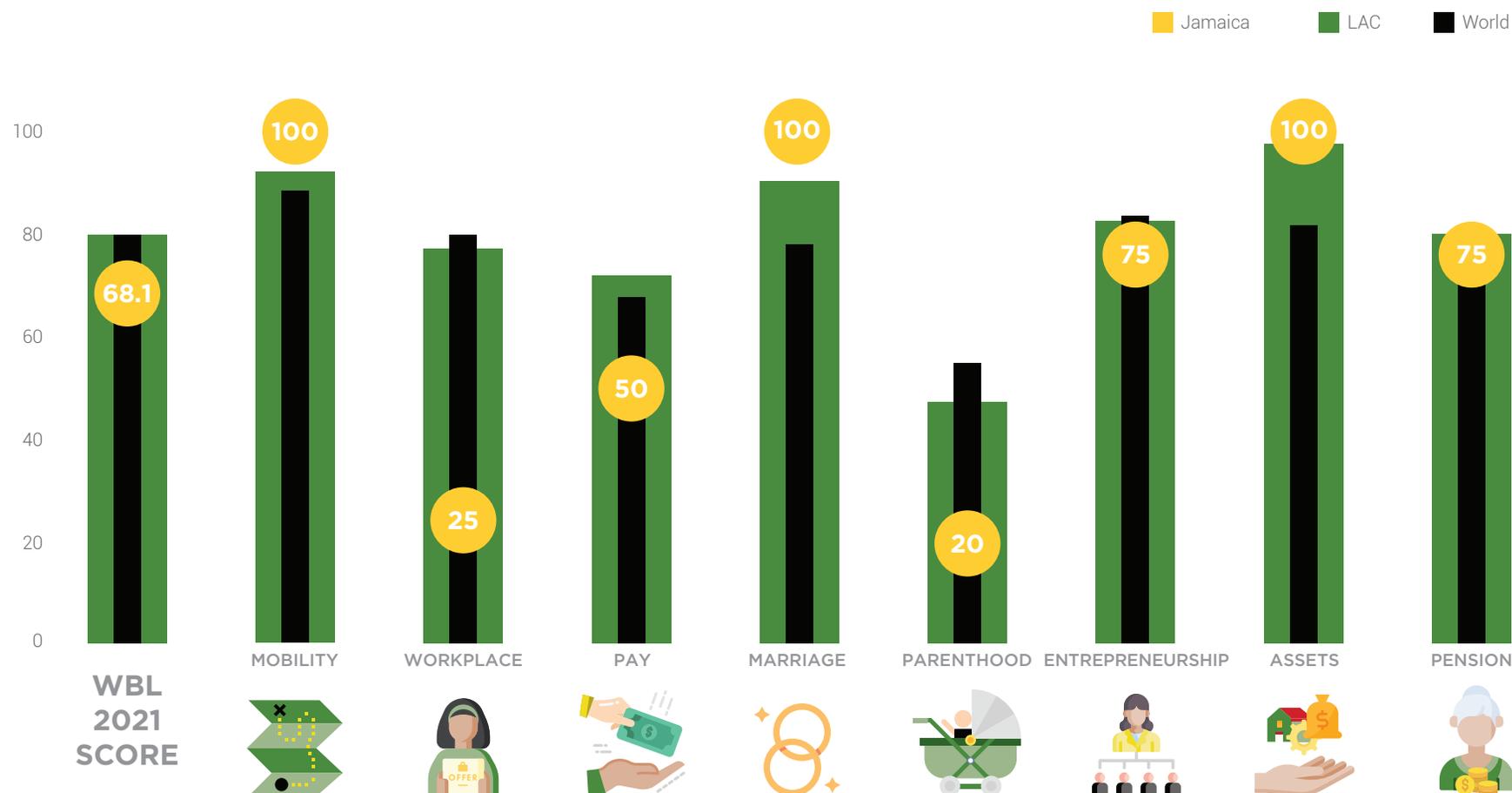
1. The scorecard shows the latest country data available and comparisons of country performance with the LAC region and the country's income-level group in the same or similar year. The country performance is scored relative to the comparison groups using a Traffic Light System: **green ●** if the country performs better than the two comparison groups (LAC and the similar-income group); **yellow ●** if the country performs better than one comparison group; **red ●** if both comparison groups perform better than the country. N/A means lack of data. No color indicates that comparisons cannot be made. This scorecard features available sex-disaggregated data (men/women).

2. Share of youth not in education, employment or training (NEET) is the proportion of young people who are not in education, employment, or training to the population of the corresponding age group: youth (ages 15 to 24); persons ages 15 to 29; or both age groups. When data are available for more than two age groups in a given year, one value for persons ages 15 to 29 is taken, considering that not all people complete their education by the age of 24. World Development Indicators.

Gender Equality in the Law

The Women Business and the Law index³ score presents the share of good laws in the economy and it is structured around a woman's working life

Jamaica - Latin America & Caribbean - World Comparison (2021)



3. Thirty-five data points are scored across eight indicators composed of four or five binary questions, with each indicator representing a different phase of a woman's life. Indicator-level scores are obtained by calculating the unweighted average of responses to the questions within that indicator and scaling the result to 100. Overall scores are then calculated by taking the average of each indicator, with 100 representing the highest possible score, meaning that the country gives women and men equal legal rights in the measured areas. Source: [WBL 2021](#).

Gender Equality in the Law

In total, 35 questions are scored across the eight indicators. Overall scores are then calculated by taking the average of each indicator, with 100 representing the highest possible score.

Topic	Question	Answer	Indicator Score
MOBILITY 	Can a woman choose where to live in the same way as a man?	Yes	100
	Can a woman travel outside her home in the same way as a man?	Yes	
	Can a woman apply for a passport in the same way as a man?	Yes	
	Can a woman travel outside the country in the same way as a man?	Yes	
WORKPLACE 	Can a woman get a job in the same way as a man?	Yes	25
	Does the law prohibit discrimination in employment based on gender?	No	
	Is there legislation on sexual harassment in employment?	No	
	Are there criminal penalties or civil remedies for sexual harassment in employment?	No	
PAY 	Does the law mandate equal remuneration for work of equal value?	No	50
	Can a woman work at night in the same way as a man?	Yes	
	Can a woman work in a job deemed dangerous in the same way as a man?	Yes	
	Can a woman work in an industrial job in the same way as a man?	No	
MARRIAGE 	Is there no legal provision that requires a married woman to obey her husband?	Yes	100
	Can a woman be head of household in the same way as a man?	Yes	
	Is there legislation specifically addressing domestic violence?	Yes	
	Can a woman obtain a judgment of divorce in the same way as a man?	Yes	
	Does a woman have the same rights to remarry as a man?	Yes	
PARENTHOOD 	Is paid leave of at least 14 weeks available to mothers?	No	20
	Does the government pay 100% of maternity leave benefits?	No	
	Is paid leave available to fathers?	No	
	Is there paid parental leave?	No	
	Is dismissal of pregnant workers prohibited?	Yes	
ENTREPRENEURSHIP 	Does the law prohibit discrimination in access to credit based on gender?	No	75
	Can a woman sign a contract in the same way as a man?	Yes	
	Can a woman register a business in the same way as a man?	Yes	
	Can a woman open a bank account in the same way as man?	Yes	
ASSETS 	Do men and women have equal ownership rights to immovable property?	Yes	100
	Do sons and daughters have equal rights to inherit assets from their parents?	Yes	
	Do female and male surviving spouses have equal rights to inherit assets?	Yes	
	Does the law grant spouses equal administrative authority over assets during marriage?	Yes	
	Does the law provide for the valuation of nonmonetary contributions?	Yes	
PENSION 	Is the age at which men and women can retire with full pension benefits the same?	Yes	75
	Is the age at which men and women can retire with partial pension benefits the same?	Yes	
	Is the mandatory retirement age for men and women the same?	Yes	
	Are periods of absence due to childcare accounted for in pension benefits?	No	
WBL 2021 Index Score			68.1

Click on the links below for more information



Interventions to close Gender Gaps

Human endowments

- [Facilitating school-to-work transition](#)
- [Attracting more women into STEM fields](#)
- [Reducing boys' school dropout and helping boys at risk](#)

Economic opportunity

- [Expanding access to affordable and quality care](#)
- [Improving women's access to quality employment](#)
- [Improving the performance of women-owned firms](#)
- [Increasing women's ownership and control of productive assets](#)

Voice and agency

- [Preventing and addressing violence against women and girls](#)
- [Reducing teen pregnancy](#)

Project-Level Indicators to monitor progress in narrowing Gender Gaps

- [Illustrative progress indicators aligned with the LCR Gender Action Plan \(RGAP\) priority areas](#)

Useful resources

Legislative and regulatory framework

- [Jamaica 2-page snapshot of laws and regulations affecting women's economic opportunities \(2021\)](#)

Gender strategic framework

- [Jamaica - Country Partnership Strategy FY2014-2017](#)

Country-specific data and analysis

- [The Impact of Soft-Skills Training for Entrepreneurs in Jamaica – IDB \(2020\)](#)
- [Jamaica Country Profile – Bridging the Gap: Mapping Gender Data Availability in Latin America and the Caribbean – data2x \(2020\)](#)
- [Jamaica Country Profile – Gender Equality Observatory, ECLAC](#)
- [Jamaica Fact Sheet – UN WOMEN](#)

Evidence on what works to close gender gaps

- [LAC Gender Innovation Lab](#)
- [Umbrella Facility for Gender Equality](#)
- [IDB's Gender and Diversity Knowledge Initiative - GDLab](#)



IN ACTION: Integrating Gender into Project Design

Jamaica Foundations for Competitiveness and Growth Project Additional Financing ([P173165](#))

Objective: To strengthen the business environment in Jamaica for private sector investment.

